



# Tempe Public Art

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## Mayme Kratz & Mark Ryan

*trueNorth*, 2007

Concrete, stainless steel,  
resin and fire

### Location:

Tempe Center for the Arts  
Lobby and Exterior Patio  
700 W. Rio Salado Parkway

### Artist website:

[www.MaymeKratz.com](http://www.MaymeKratz.com)

[www.Ryan-Studio.com](http://www.Ryan-Studio.com)

Photo: Craig Smith

**Description:** This fire source on the edge of the water was inspired by the Native American legend of the “Great Spirit.” The story, passed down through the generations, tells of the Great Spirit assigning guardianship of the earth, wind, fire and water to different races of people and also assigning each of these basic elements to one of the four coordinate directions: “To North, the Great Spirit Gave Fire.” Using the geometric center of Tempe Center for the Art’s semi-circular plan, a line extends through the Papago Buttes, Camelback Mountain and beyond, connecting to a much larger context and exposing the individual to this greater perspective.

**Artist biography:** Mayme Kratz has lived in Phoenix since 1986. Self-educated and focused on her creative life at an early age, she earned an apprenticeship with artist James Hubbell in her early 20s. Kratz’s solo exhibitions include the Tucson Museum of Art, the Tacoma Museum of Glass and Desert Botanical Garden, as well as group exhibitions at the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Phoenix Art Museum and Blue Star Art in San Antonio. She is represented by and exhibits regularly at Lisa Sette Gallery (Arizona) Elliott Arts West (New Mexico) and Anne Reed Gallery (Idaho).

Mark Ryan grew up near Phoenix. He received his initial training in architecture at the University of Cincinnati, and spent time as an undergraduate studying urban design in Greece through the University of Illinois. Ryan did his graduate work at the Architectural Association in London on a Foundation Scholarship. He lived and worked in Germany, Italy, England and numerous parts of the U.S. before returning to Phoenix to open his own studio. Ryan is involved in public art, in addition to architecture, and is a visiting professor in the School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at Arizona State University.

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